

OPTICAL POLARIZER

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Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A reflective polarizer and a dichroic polarizer are combined to provide an
improved optical polarizer. The dichroic and reflective polarizers are typically in close
proximity to each other, and are preferably bonded together to eliminate the air gap
between the polarizers. The combination of the two polarizers provides a high
reflectivity of one polarization and high transmission for the perpendicular polarization
10 from the reflective polarizer side of the combined polarizer, and high absorption and
transmission for light of orthogonal polarization from the dichroic polarizer side. The
combination also reduces iridescence as seen in transmission and when viewed in
reflection from the dichroic polarizer side. The increased extinction ratio and low
reflectivity of the optical polarizer allows use of a lower extinction ratio dichroic
15 polarizer in applications requiring a given extinction ratio and high transmission.

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